



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **KENTUCKY DERBY CONTENDER MANDALOUN WORKS HALF-MILE IN :49.80 AT CHURCHILL DOWNS**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, April 3, 2021)** – On a brisk Spring morning beneath the historic Twin Spires, **Juddmonte Farm's** Risen Star (Grade II) winner **Mandaloun** started his serious preparation toward the first Saturday in May with a half-mile breeze Saturday in :49.80 under jockey **Florent Geroux**.

Trained by **Brad Cox**, Mandaloun was the highly-touted 6-5 favorite in the \$1 million Louisiana Derby (GII) but finished a disappointing sixth behind eventual winner **Hot Rod Charlie**. The Into Mischief colt worked outside of Louisiana-bred stakes winner **Australasia** through a moderate :25.40 opening quarter-mile fraction. The duo galloped out together through five furlongs in 1:02.60 and completed the work with a six-furlong time of 1:16.40, according to Churchill Downs clocker **John Nichols**.

"There really wasn't an excuse in the Louisiana Derby," Cox said. "I hate to use the cliché of drawing a line through the race, but that is what we are doing. At the half-mile pole, he really didn't continue to put himself into the race and was out of gas. We had high hopes, obviously, that he would run better in that race. We talked it over with the folks from Juddmonte and if he continues to train well, we are going to pursue the Derby."

Moments before Mandaloun's work, Cox's top \$1.25 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) contender **Travel Column** breezed a half-mile in :48.60. She began the work with a :24.60 quarter-mile time and galloped out five furlongs in 1:02.

Other stars that recorded works Saturday morning at Churchill Downs included 2020 Preakness Stakes (GI) winner **Swiss Skydiver**, who worked a half-mile in :48 under jockey **Robby Albarado** and undefeated Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf (GI) hero **Aunt Pearl**, who worked a half-mile in :48.60 under Geroux.

Training hours at Churchill Downs will switch Monday to the normal 5:30-10 a.m. (all times Eastern) with two renovation breaks from 7-7:30 a.m. and 8:30-9 a.m. Weather permitting, turf training is scheduled to begin on April 18 from 9:30-10 a.m. every Sunday and Tuesday.

Special 7:30-7:45 a.m. training for Oaks and Derby contenders will begin Saturday, April 17.

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